

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action

In the Office Action dated June 16, 2004, claims 231-247 and 263-270 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph; claims 271-278 and 283-290 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph; claims 248, 249, 271, 273, 274, and 278 are rejected as anticipated by Hummell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,951,819); claim 280 is rejected as anticipated by Koch (U.S. Patent No. 6,347,654 61); and claims 250-263, 279, 281 and 282 are allowed.

The allowance of claims 250-263, 279, 281, and 282 is acknowledged with appreciation.

In response to the Office Action, claims 231, 248, 263 are amended and new claims of 291-302 are added.

The Pending Claims

Brief discussions of the patentability of each of the independent claims follow.

Claim 231 has been amended to clarify that the label applicator can apply a label having a central opening and a different label having a narrower central opening.

Claim 248 includes post means for centering a first label having a narrow central opening and centering means for centering a second label having a wide central opening wider than the narrow central opening.

Claim 250 was allowed.

Claim 259 was allowed.

Claim 263 includes an inner centering post having a first effective diameter adapted to center a first label having a narrow central opening, and an outer centering ring adapted to center a second label having a wide central opening.

Claim 271 includes an outer centering ring, a centering post and a spindle, which are shown, for example, by reference numerals 460, 462 and 406, respectively. The '113 Hummell patent shows a first arm 38 in hole 46 and a second arm 36 in hole 44. It does not disclose an outer centering ring movable in an opening.

Claim 279 was allowed.

Claim 280 claims among other things a pair of flex rims each including an alignment wall having two sides angled relatively to each other along a crease line. This is shown, for example, in FIG. 81. This is not disclosed in the '654 patent to Koch.

Claim 281 was allowed.

Claim 282 was allowed.

Claim 283, in response to the Examiner's inquiry, includes a locator assembly shown for example in FIG. 31 or at 320 in FIG. 11, and a lift post shown, for example, by reference numerals 404 or 340.

Claim 302 includes an outer centering ring, a centering post and a spindle.

The Information Disclosure Statement

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner formally consider the references cited in Applicants' prior Information Disclosure Statement filed on April 8, 2004, and the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement submitted with the original Amendment dated July 30, 2004.

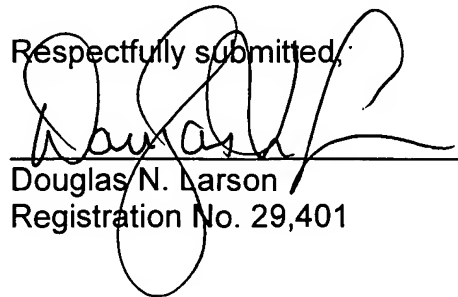
Concluding Remarks

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' undersigned counsel at (213) 689-5142 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 07-1853. Should such additional fees be associated with an extension of time, Applicants respectfully request that this paper be considered a petition therefor.

Date: August 25, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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